

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 1 is amended herein to indicate that the CEA protein is a human CEA protein as set forth in SEQ ID NO:20 wherein amino acids 679-702 of SEQ ID NO:20 are deleted. Support for this amendment can be found, *inter alia*, in page 17, lines 19-25 of the specification. No new matter has been added.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1, 8, and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Office Action states that the recitation of “a truncation of amino acids 679-702 of SEQ ID NO:20” renders the claim indefinite because it is not clear if the CEA protein comprises a truncation of one, or 2, or multiple amino acids within 679-709 of SEQ ID NO:20.

In response thereto, claim 1 is amended herein to indicate that the CEA protein is a human CEA protein as set forth in SEQ ID NO:20 wherein amino acids 679-702 of SEQ ID NO:20 are deleted. Applicants submit that claim 1, as amended, reads on a single truncated CEA protein that consists of amino acids 1-678 of SEQ ID NO:20, fused to LTB. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection has been overcome and therefore, request that the rejection be withdrawn and the claim allowed.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 1, 8, and 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Office Action states that the claims cover broad genus of functional CEA protein variants due to the recitation of “a truncation of amino acids 679-702 of SEQ ID NO:20.”

As stated above, claim 1 is amended herein to indicate that the CEA protein is a human CEA protein as set forth in SEQ ID NO:20 wherein amino acids 679-702 of SEQ ID NO:20 are deleted. Applicants assert that, as amended, the claim refers to a single CEA protein variant in which the entire portion from amino acid 679 through amino acid 702 is deleted. As such, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1, and dependent claims 8 and 11-13 are in

compliance with the written description requirement. Applicants accordingly request that the rejection be removed and the claims allowed.

Summary

Applicants assert all claims are in condition for allowance and a favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would be of value, she is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

By /Alysia A. Finnegan, Reg. #48,878/
Alysia A. Finnegan
Reg. No.: 48,878
Attorney for Applicants

MERCK & CO., INC.
P.O. Box 2000
Rahway, NJ 07065-0907
(732) 594-2583

Date: May 2, 2011